



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

**Substitute Bill No. 5587**

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05587HS\_\_\_\_\_031616\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONCERNING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1      Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the  
2      Advisory Council on Services for Children and Young Adults with  
3      Developmental Disabilities. The council, within available  
4      appropriations, shall make recommendations regarding the efficacy of  
5      support systems for children and young adults, not older than twenty-  
6      one years of age, with developmental disabilities who may or may not  
7      have mental health treatment needs.

8      (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

9      (1) Two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be  
10     appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one of  
11     whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

12     (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
13     committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
14     relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, children,  
15     public health, education and human services, or their designees;

16     (3) The Health Care Advocate, or the Health Care Advocate's  
17     designee;

18       (4) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
19 commissioner's designee;

20       (5) The Commissioner of Developmental Disabilities, or the  
21 commissioner's designee;

22       (6) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

23       (7) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or  
24 the commissioner's designee;

25       (8) The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood, or the  
26 commissioner's designee;

27       (9) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
28 designee;

29       (10) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

30       (11) A chairperson of the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight  
31 Council who represents consumers, who shall be appointed by the  
32 senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General  
33 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services;

34       (12) A representative from the behavioral health administrative  
35 services organization for the Medicaid program, who shall be  
36 appointed by the Commissioner of Social Services;

37       (13) Two family or child advocates, one of whom shall be appointed  
38 by one chairperson of the council and one of whom shall be appointed  
39 by the other chairperson of the council;

40       (14) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
41 secretary's designee;

42       (15) The executive director of the Council on Developmental  
43 Disabilities, or the executive director's designee;

44 (16) A member of the Council on Developmental Disabilities,  
45 appointed by the senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of  
46 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
47 health;

48 (17) The Probate Court Administrator, or the Probate Court  
49 Administrator's designee;

50 (18) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public  
51 School Superintendents, or the executive director's designee;

52 (19) The executive director of the Connecticut Chapter of the  
53 American Academy of Pediatrics, or the executive director's designee;

54 (20) The executive director of the Connecticut Council of Child and  
55 Adolescent Psychiatry, or the executive director's designee;

56 (21) Two members of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory  
57 Council, appointed by the house chairperson of the joint standing  
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
59 relating to human services; and

60 (22) The executive director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy  
61 for Persons with Disabilities, or the executive director's designee.

62 (c) Appointments to the council shall be made not later than thirty  
63 days after the effective date of this section, except appointments made  
64 by the council chairpersons shall be made not later than sixty days  
65 after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by  
66 the appointing authority.

67 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
68 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council,  
69 one of whom shall be a family advocate, child advocate or consumer  
70 advocate and the other a member of the General Assembly appointed  
71 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The chairpersons shall  
72 schedule the first meeting of the council not later than sixty days after

73 the effective date of this section.

74 (e) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, except  
75 for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The  
76 Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide  
77 administrative support to the council.

78 (f) Not later than January 1, 2017, the council shall report, in  
79 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
80 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
81 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
82 children, public health, education and human services and the  
83 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. The report shall  
84 include, but need not be limited to, recommendations concerning:

85 (1) Any statutory changes needed to (A) promote the best interests  
86 of children and young adults diagnosed with a developmental  
87 disability, (B) ensure efficient delivery of quality services and support  
88 for unmet needs for children with disabilities, (C) improve  
89 transparency and accountability with respect to state-funded services  
90 for children and young adults with developmental disabilities and  
91 mental health treatment needs, and (D) foster efficient sharing of  
92 information between the Office of Early Childhood, the Department of  
93 Education, the Department of Children and Families, the Department  
94 of Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Social Services and  
95 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to promote  
96 positive health and education outcomes for children and young adults  
97 with developmental disabilities;

98 (2) The development of a defined matrix for evaluating the quality  
99 of state-funded services to children and young adults with  
100 developmental disabilities, with or without co-occurring mental health  
101 treatment needs, that can be utilized by all relevant state agencies that  
102 fund services to such children and young adults;

103 (3) Short-term goals to be met within six months, medium-term

104 goals to be met within twelve months and long-term goals to be met  
105 within eighteen months, for the council and state agencies with  
106 responsibilities with respect to the provision of services to children and  
107 young adults with developmental disabilities, including a meeting  
108 schedule to consider relevant reports and any related state strategic  
109 plan;

110 (4) How to address gaps in services identified by the council with  
111 respect to children and young adults diagnosed with developmental  
112 disabilities, with or without co-occurring mental health treatment  
113 needs;

114 (5) How to build upon strengths and remove barriers identified by  
115 the council that support or impede the educational needs of children  
116 and young adults with developmental disabilities, with or without co-  
117 occurring mental health treatment needs;

118 (6) A framework for cost analysis with attention to the value of  
119 prevention and early intervention, maximization of payment and  
120 payor sources; and

121 (7) A strategic plan regarding workforce development.

122 (g) Not later than July 1, 2017, the council shall report, in accordance  
123 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
124 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
125 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, children,  
126 public health, education and human services and the Secretary of the  
127 Office of Policy and Management. The report shall include, but need  
128 not be limited to, an assessment of:

129 (1) The quality and accessibility of early intervention services  
130 available to children and young adults in this state;

131 (2) The system of community-based services for children and young  
132 adults who are diagnosed with a developmental disability;

133 (3) The congregate care settings that are operated privately or by the  
 134 state and have housed children and young adults and how the quality  
 135 of delivered care to such children and young adults is measured; and

136 (4) How the state Department of Education, local boards of  
 137 education, the Department of Children and Families, the Department  
 138 of Developmental Disabilities and other appropriate agencies can work  
 139 collaboratively to reduce the number of children and young adults at  
 140 risk of entering institutional care.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(b)(2), "chairpersons' designees" was changed to "their designees" for accuracy; in Section 1(c), "provided that" was changed to "except" for conformity with legislative drafting conventions; and in Section 1(f)(2), "children" was changed to "children and young adults" for accuracy and consistency.

**HS** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO